

**MORRIS COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY
BOARD – January 9, 2014**

Members Present:

Charlie Berman, Citizen Representative
Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative
Claire Cooney, Citizen Representative
Linda Csengeto, OTA Rep.
Carol DeGraw, United Way of NNJ
Julian Hill Jr., MCPO
Peggy Himsl, Citizen Representative
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Representative
Marcy McMann, Citizen Representative
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Representative
Deb Ward, Citizen Representative
LaJuan Tucker, MCPO

Also Attending:

Eileen Alexander, DMHAS
Valerie Fox, Public

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Beth Jacobson, MCDHS
Patricia Mocarski, MCDHS
Steve Nebesni, MCDHS
Frank Pinto, MCDHS

I. Call to Order and Approval of October 10 minutes –

Ms. Deb Ward, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m.
Ms. Carol DeGraw made a motion to approve the December 12, 2013 minutes.
Motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie Berman. All were in favor with two abstentions and no opposition.

II. Welcome and Introductions –

Ms. Deb Ward welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

III. Chair Report –

Ms. Becker stated that a copy of the letter approved by the board in December and sent to the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services recommending Community Hope for the RFP for Supportive Housing for Mental Health Consumers at Risk of Hospitalization and Homelessness is in each member's folder.

IV. Subcommittee Reports –

Funding – Ms. Becker

Next month the board will get their Orientation Packets. If anyone would like to discuss the board's work, please feel free to call Ms. Becker at 973-285-6852.

Ms. Becker asked members to think about what subcommittee they would like to join as sign up sheets will be passed around at the February meeting.

Planning – No Report

Legislative/Advocacy –

Ms. Becker asked if there were any updates on the Involuntary Outpatient Commitment Law. Ms. Alexander stated there was no information to report.

County Alliance Steering Committee (CASS) – Steve Nebesni

The CASS has not met since last MHSAAB meeting. They set the date for the new forms and application process training for CASS members. It will be held on January 22 at 30 Schuyler, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is to help members get up to speed on changes to the forms and application process. At the last meeting the MHSAAB voted to write a letter to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) thanking them for providing the additional training. The letter went out to the GCADA under Ms. DeGraw's signature. A copy of the letter was distributed to the Board for their information.

V. Staff Reports

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Mr. Nebesni

The Fiscal Year 2015 application paperwork is due on February 14. The Alliances are working on their applications and Mr. Nebesni is in the process of collecting the 2013 grant extension paperwork. Mr. Nebesni is going to highlight an Alliance and their accomplishments at each board meeting.

Mr. Nebesni highlighted Jefferson Township Alliance and some of their accomplishments in 2013:

- Project Graduation
- Teens Against Dating Abuse (TADA)
- Red Ribbon Week
- 40 Developmental Assets
- Creative mentoring
- Involved in various township activities and initiatives
- Panel discussion which included Mr. J. Hill about the consequences of substance abuse

The Jefferson Alliance has served hundreds in the community through their various programs and activities.

Addictions Services Administrator – Ms. Jacobson

Ms. Jacobson advised that the Grant in Aid subgrants are set to go to the Freeholders for signature at the January 22 meeting. She is still awaiting approval of the 2014

Chapter 51 application from the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). Once the application is approved and the 2014 contract is received Ms. Jacobson will send out Chapter 51 subgrants.

The County Comprehensive Plan is due to DMHAS in early spring. Ms. Jacobson would like to put together a Planning Steering Committee to guide the planning process, comprised of MHSAAB and PAC members. Focus groups will need to be scheduled, and the plan could be to use existing committees such as the Cross Systems Review Committee and the YSAC. Ms. Jacobson passed around a sign up sheet for volunteers for this Planning Steering Committee.

Ms. Becker suggested that this committee could also be involved in the planning for the Annual Public Forum for Consumers and Families, which could tie into the development of the County Comprehensive Plan. She suggested looking at how the Forum has been done in the past and deciding whether or not to shift focus or change the format. The forum has been an annual event for 16-17 years, and it is a valuable tool to discover what is and is not working in the mental health and addictions systems.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Becker

HUD Continuum of Care funding provides homeless and homeless prevention services. There is a 5% cut in next year's total award. The HUD governance group met with the provider affected to let them know about the cuts. It was determined that due to HUD service priorities that providers of supportive services projects would receive an 8.2% decrease. Safe Haven, a program that serves individuals who are homeless with serious mental illness, is one of these projects.

Ms. Becker stated that only 12 patients from Morris County remain at Meadowview Hospital. This is more than a 50% decrease since last fall.

Ms. Becker reported that the State short-term care facility regulations are up for review and will "sunset" at the end of the year. Saint Clare's has the short-term care facility in Morris County. If MHSAAB members would like to review and comment on the regulations to DMHAS, Ms. Becker offered to facilitate the process. For further information on short term care facilities standards see the DMHAS website at www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/info/notices/regulations/Reg .

VI. Joint PAC Report – Meeting Cancelled Due to Inclement Weather - No Report

VII. State Liaison Report – Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services –

Ms. Alexander

- 1) Name of Program:** One-Time Start-Up Funds for Drug Court: Long-Term, Short-Term and Halfway House Substance Abuse Treatment Services

Purpose: This RFP is for approximately \$2.9 million in one-time dollars for start-up costs such as recruitment and hiring of staff, securing equipment and minor renovation or

refurbishing costs. Utilizing SFY12 Drug Court treatment data, it was projected that an additional 179 residential beds are needed in order to meet the treatment needs of approximately 620 additional Drug Court participants expected to enter mandatory treatment. The breakdown of the 179 beds is as follows: 90 long-term residential (LTR), 76 halfway house (HWH), and 13 short-term residential (STR) beds. Ten agencies were awarded contracts.

Agency Name	CEO/Executive Director	# Beds/ Level of Care	Amount Funded	County of Award
Community Recovery Services	Niya Baraka	5 HWH	\$74,220	Ocean
C.U.R.A	Gloria Plaza	15 LTR	\$143,809	Hudson
Integrity	Robert Budsock	27 HWH	\$184,372	Essex
John Brooks Recovery Center	Alan Oberman	8 LTR	\$17,653	Atlantic
Maryville	Kendria McWilliams	4 STR	\$6,834.15	Gloucester
Real House	Shawn Jennings	12 HWH	\$132,250	Essex
RMS Housing Associates / Angel Hope House	Richard Baraka	10 HWH	\$78,540	Essex
Straight & Narrow	Joseph Duffy	9 STR	\$96,330	Passaic
United Progress Inc.	Leslie A. Dona	9 HWH	\$79,336	Mercer
Urban Renewal Corp.	Lane Jacobs	30 LTR / 10 HWH	\$225,053	Essex

2) As a reminder, per our discussion at the PACT Directors meeting in September, the PACT QCMR has replaced the DMHAS monthly reporting requirement. Monthly reports **are no longer required**. The PACT QCMR submissions are due each quarter, within 30 days of the conclusion of each quarter. The next submission (for the period, October 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013) is due on January 30, 2014. The submissions should be emailed to: dmhs.qcmr@dhs.state.nj.us. The new PACT QCMR and Annex A is (has been) available at: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs/info/csc/qcmr/>.

3) The Law Project has expanded as a result of the Hurricane Sandy funding. This will provide 9 Full time and 5 part time staff to the tune of 1 to 1.6 for each provider throughout the state.

- 4) DMHAS has a fiscal restructuring whereas the fiscal units for both the DMHAS and DDD will be merged to share a Chief Fiscal Officer and a Budget Director. Joe Guider is currently acting as the Budget Director until we post and hire.
- 5) In the Medicaid newsletter they announced that the billing for telepsychiatry can be charged to Medicaid. The initial cost of the equipment necessary to implement telepsychiatry is an expense the agency will have to incur.
- 6) PACT/RIST expansion was awarded to every provider that applied. Please be advised that the final awards for the FY14 PACT/RIST Expansion RFP have been issued (there were no preliminary awards). Following are the awardees: **RHD RIST - Ocean** (Proposed Expansion for 15 in Ocean County), **Ocean MHS PACT I** (Proposed Expansion for 10 in Ocean County), **Ocean MHS PACT II** (Proposed Expansion for 4 in Ocean County), **Greater Trenton RIST-** (Proposed Expansion for 10 in Mercer County), **Catholic Charities PACT - DOM** (Proposed Expansion for 7 in Middlesex County), **Cumberland County Guidance Center PACT** - (Proposed Expansion for 15 in Cumberland and Salem Counties)
- 7) The next DMHAS Short Term Care Facility Directors' meeting will be held on **March 12, 2014 at 1:00 PM** at the DMHAS central office (Dept. of Human Services Building, 222 South Warren Street, Trenton, NJ 08625), conference room 3-000.
- 8) The next DMHAS Screening Directors' meeting will be held on **February 27, 2014 at 1:00 PM** at the DMHAS central office (Dept. of Human Services Building, 222 South Warren Street, Trenton, NJ 08625), conference room 3-000.
- 9) The next DMHAS EISS Directors' meeting will be held on **February 20, 2014 at 1:00 PM** at the DMHAS central office (Dept. of Human Services Building, 222 South Warren Street, Trenton, NJ 08625), conference room 3-000.
- 10) The Myers and Stouffer rate setting workgroups have been postponed until February 2014. This is a result of participant feedback. This is an effort to have a more focused approach to the workgroups.

A board member questioned the actual cost of telepsychiatry. Ms. Alexander stated that Medicaid will pay for the telepsychiatry but not the actual equipment. Ms. Becker will inquire about the expense for the equipment and report back to the MHS AAB.

Ms. Alexander stated that Greystone census is not available but DMHAS is working to comply with the Olmstead settlement. DMHAS is working to meet the requirement to discharge patients on CEPP status into appropriate community accommodations within 120 days. This is an ongoing challenge as many individuals need intensive staffing support at high cost. The Olmstead settlement, affecting every State hospital, should be concluded in about six months and it is unclear what next steps will be.

VIII. Old Business – None

IX. New Business –

Ms. Becker asked what presentations the board might be interested for this coming year. Last year the board discussed having Ms. Janet Monroe from Greystone Hospital back to speak. Also discussed having other counties (possibly Essex and/or Warren) come and talk about their Outpatient Commitment to Treatment programs

(IOC). Board members expressed an interest in hearing an update from Mr. Benson on research related to addictions. They are interested in learning more about Vivitrol, Narcan, other medications currently used. Also suggested was a presentation on the Overdose Prevention Act. Perhaps former DEA agent Doug Collier, Dr. Eilers or Thomas Calcagni, Esq. could speak on the subject. This might be an interesting presentation for the Forum this year. Discussion ensued on the widespread heroin epidemic and the increasing number of overdoses.

Ms. Becker stated that the board orientation will take place at the next meeting.

Ms. Jacobson distributed information about the documentary she mentioned at the last meeting, "The Anonymous People". More information can be found at MANYFACES1VOICE.ORG, a new website and campaign to engage and mobilize people to transform public attitudes and policies affecting people seeking help or in recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs. If you have an opportunity to see this film, it is very informative and worth seeing. It may be something to look into bringing to this county.

X. Open to the Public –

Ms. Fox stated that it usually takes about four months for a patient to be released from Greystone. There has been a lot of recidivism. She would like to know what the recidivism rate is for Greystone. Ms. Becker will attempt to get this information from Dale Monroe.

Mr. LaRussa mentioned he is looking into taking classes at Saint Elizabeth's College and found out that Ms. McMann is an Adjunct Professor at Saint Elizabeth's and teaches Business Law.

Ms. Becker introduced Mr. Pinto to the new board members. Mr. Pinto stated there is a new Freeholder Ms. DeFillippo that is the Deputy Liaison to Human Services. Mr. Pinto would like to get her engaged in the board's work and will invite her to board meetings.

XI. Adjournment –

Motion was made by Ms. McMann and seconded by Ms. Melo to close the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. The next meeting will be February 13.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide